

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DRC-01 /161 W

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R 041215Z DEC 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3769

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 1498

1. DECEMBER 4 AHARAM CONTAINS ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE STATING THAT CONTACTS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE WITH QADHAAFI AND RCC REGARDING "RECENT EVENTS IN THE SITUATION, AND THE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE ARAB RANKS IN FACING THE COMING CHALLENGES." ARTICLE NOTES THAT ASHRAF MARWAN HAS ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI, AS HAS SYRIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE FAWZY AL-KAYYALI, TO DISCUSS SITUATION. AL-KAYYALI REPORTEDLY ARRIVED IN LIBYA DECEMBER 3 CARRYING LETTER FROM HAFEZ AL-ASAD. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI ALSO ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI LAST NIGHT, AS BOURGUIBA'S REPRESENTATIVE FOLLOWING TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH QADHAAFI; AND, AHARAM CONTINUES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD WILL VISIT LIBYA THIS WEEK. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH NOTE THAT ARAFAT HAD "LONG CONSULTATIONS" IN TRIPOLI BEFORE
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ARRIVING IN CAIRO DECEMBER 2.

2. COMMENT: WE SHARE TRIPOLI'S VIEW THT SADAT DOES NOT WANT TO BREAK COMPLETELY WITH QADHAAFI, ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS CONTENT TO PERMIT A CONSIDERABLY DEGRADED RELATIONSHIP. AHRAM'S ARTICLE SUGGESTS, MOREOVER, THAT SADAT IS NOT AVERSE TO INTERCESSION BY ARAFAT, MASMOUDI AND RIAD IN ATTEMPT TO TALK REASON TO QADHAAFI AT THIS POINT. EGYPTIANS FEEL THEY OUTMANEUVERED QADHAAFI AND OTHER ARAB IRREDENTISTS SUCH AS IRAQIS BY OBTAINING BROAD ARAB CONSENSUS ON THEIR GOALS AT ALGIERS SUMMIT. THEY NOW SEEM PREPARED TO TOLERATE QADHAAFI'S ANTICS AS LONG AS THESE DO NOT CAUSE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WEIGHT GIVEN BY EGYPTIANS TO LIBYAN FACTOR IN PRESENT SITUATION HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN PAST FEW MONTHS.

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